

## SERF LAW ADVOCATES REVERT TO INJUNCTION PROCESS FOR FAULTY APPRENTICE PLAN

## EMPLOYERS BLAME THEMSELVES FOR FAULTY APPRENTICE PLAN

A committee appointed by the American bar association to draft a uniform compulsory labor law for the various states has reported that it "does not feel warranted in presenting the draft at this time."

Behind this notice that a general compulsory labor law will not be urged looms the United States supreme court's annulment of the wage section of the Kansas industrial court.

What a change in 60 years!

Then a Kansas governor was favored for the vice presidency because he resuscitated a centuries-old English law for jailing strikers.

He was acclaimed throughout the land. His insipid utterances and absurd claims were treated as from divinity. Men stood in awe before this mountebank who is now forgotten.

Statesmen of the Poinsett type

sensed the vote-getting value of the ancient plan and added to the public hysteria and social demoralization by favoring compulsory labor laws.

The American bar association joined the pack against labor, and these expounders of justice and law appointed a committee to prepare union hand-cuff legislation.

And then the bubble burst! The United States supreme court ruled that a state legislature can not set wages by law.

What a change in 60 years! It is done, that is the work of judges, said the court.

While organized labor has won its fight against this form of compulsory labor, they must not delude themselves. They are confronted by the same menace in another and more insidious form.

Advocates of compulsory labor now depend on the injunction judge and the workers' well-known respect for law,

which is capitalized by judicial officers. It makes no difference to privilege whether a strike is broken by an injunction judge or by the police power of the state, but the latter system is less "smooth" than the injunction process.

Jailing workers for violating a compulsory law has too many sensational elements to suit privilege. It is liable to arouse the masses.

An injunction judge is the ideal servant of privilege. He says a strike is a "conspiracy" and he is ready for striking but for violating his order to desist from their "conspiracy." They reply that their movement is a legal strike and they insist on their right.

"Ha, ha! Defying government!" cries privilege, as all its publicity forces bring the public mind to accept the views of the injunction judge.

The result is the same as if a compulsory labor law were in force. The

odium is placed on the workers not because they strike but because they "maintain a conspiracy in defiance of government."

Many citizens who oppose compulsory labor laws are confused by the injunction judge and they support his chicanery and deceit.

The injunction judge is the keystone to the anti-union cheap-labor arch. He lives in an atmosphere of unselfish devotion to the cause of justice. In reality he is an aid to privilege and is increasing menace to American ideals.

His power can be broken through an enlightened public opinion.

Citizens all walks of life must be shown by labor that our American institutions are threatened with creeping despotism. Shopkeepers and workers are permitted to make laws, interpret them, and jail men for violating them. The injunction judge must go!

Chicago, Sept. 1.—A feature of the recent convention of the national association of sheet metal contractors was the blame apportioned for the faulty apprentice plan.

The labor editor showed that these contractors made no attempt to control their own shortcomings by getting to the favorite method of anti-unionists. This fairness was indicated by the report of a committee, presented by C. A. Daniel of Newburgh.

It has been easy to blame the labor organizations and their resistance to apprentices for the shortage, and it is doubtful if there is a city in the country where the union control that has many apprentices as the union rules permit.

Paul F. Brandstedt, another contractor said: "The fact is we have made laborers of our boys and have not tried to teach a trade, which requires a lot of knowledge."

The union has lagged in time and again to get together and agree upon training apprentices. Not a shop in my city has ever given the proposition due consideration. The boys have been trained in the trade, the average employer today is responsible for the shortage of mechanics in our line."

These business men agree that the contractor who is not educated in co-operation with the Sheet Metal Workers' union.

L. J. Staver, Dallas, Texas, reported that there is a trade school in his home town promoted entirely by the union, which compels the boys to attend three nights a week. "If they don't, they do not work."

He is getting better mechanics," said Mr. Staver.

The apprentice policy of the Sheet Metal Workers' union was also indicated by the Carnegie Foundation, Pa., who said:

"We arranged with the Carnegie Institute that apprentices should be trained two hours an evening for three years in sheet metal, pattern drafting, shop practice and mathematics. After four years we found that this system was not altogether satisfactory. After five years we concluded that the only solution was to co-operate with the local union and have a full apprenticeship system."

These expressions are in contrast to the clause policy of anti-unionists to appeal to popular prejudice to cover up their own training apprentices.

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## "RIGHTS OF PUBLIC" ARE NO PARAMOUNT

Washington, Sept. 1.—The claim that the rights of the public are paramount over the rights of employers and employees in the coal industry is rejected by the department of social action, national Catholic labor council.

In their weekly public council, the church now takes this claim as "specious" and "misleading" and says that newspapers that make this claim indulge in "loose writing."

"In the first place," the statement says, "the consumers of anthracite coal are considerable. It is the total population of the country, therefore, they are entitled to the same sense of the term, identical with the public. In the second place, the right of the public to be supplied with anthracite coal is not absolute; it is limited by the rights of the mine workers and the mine operators."

If the miners and operators have obligations to the public, the public has likewise obligations to the miners and operators.

In its report on the anthracite industry, the United States coal commission declares that the government has, or should have, power to punish a conspiracy of employers and operators, or both, directed against the general welfare of the people.

In an early week, the commission recalls the antiquated days when all strikes were legally recognized and the miners were treated as a class.

Neither the commission nor the public is justified in thus treating the miners. The commission nor the public is justified in thus treating the miners.

"After all, neither the miners nor the operators have the legal status of chattel slaves to the public. The public has no right to demand that the miners produce coal—whether conditions be just or unjust or not—without the miners acting the part of a tyrant and evading its own responsibility."

DESERT ANTI-UNIONISTS TO GET SKILLED MEN

Chicago, Sept. 1.—Because a group of 150 anti-union employers in the Landis committee, can not furnish skilled non-union workers, the largest contracting firms in this country have withdrawn their affiliation to the committee.

The committee is a self-constituted body that took upon itself the task of enforcing an arbitration award by former Federal Judge Landis. It is now a group of 150 anti-union employers.

Several of the unions in the industry have been ruled on questions that were not included in the original award. To retaliate, the Landis committee assumed control of the building industry, and declared for the anti-union side.

The committee has imported thousands of workers to this city to carry out its program, and this at a time when they and their kind were screaming for more liberal immigration laws to "supply the labor shortage."

STANDARD OIL GROUP PAYS OUT DIVIDENDS

New York, Sept. 1.—Standard oil dividends for the quarter will total \$1,691,267, despite unsettled conditions in this industry for the recent breaking procedure and lower prices. These profits compare with \$1,691,267 in the second quarter, \$33,499,988 in the first quarter of the current year, and \$22,028,000 in the first quarter of 1922.

MINERS AID DISTRESSED

Kennecott, Wyo., Sept. 1.—The first note of practical sympathy to the distressed miners was received from the Kennecott Copper Company, which telegraphed check for \$100,000, signed by President Lewis of the United Mine Workers.

Another aid is the prompt settlement of compensation under the state law. In 25 cases, the settlement reached almost immediately by District Judge Lewis.

RAILROADS SHOW GAIN

New York, Sept. 1.—Net operating incomes of 18 railroads from all sections of the country for the second quarter of 1923, compared with \$28,075,361 for the same period in 1922.

RELOCATED ANTI-UNION SHOP

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 1.—The printing plant of the H. B. Brown company, which on the industrial union side, has been relocated at Raleigh, N. C., after a strike of 44-hour men.

## CAN'T DIVIDE LOYALTY WITH MOSCOW SCHEME

New York, Sept. 1.—Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have given notice that they will not support any scheme for dividing loyalty between the union and the government.

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## ALIEN EDITORS BACK ON IMMIGRATION POLICY

New York, Sept. 1.—Many foreign language newspapers in the United States have given notice that they will not support any scheme for dividing loyalty between the union and the government.

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## ROCKY OLD NEW HAVEN PROTESTS AGAINST MORE RAILROAD PROFITS

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 1.—The report by the so-called government commission on the New Haven and Hartford Railroad, which states that the New Haven and Hartford Railroad is a "labor saving device," has provoked a strong protest in the city.

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## TOO MANY MIDDLEMEN FARMERS ARE COUGED BY HARVEST TRUST

Portland, Ore., Sept. 1.—Producers and consumers must be their own middlemen, according to the National Farmers' Union, which insists that the farmer should be able to sell his products directly to the consumer.

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## EIGHT HOUR STEEL DAY "SURPRISES" EDITOR

New York, Sept. 1.—The Analyst, a financial publication in this city, is surprised by the news that the steel industry is planning an eight-hour day for its workers.

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